

Preliminary Amendment

Remarks

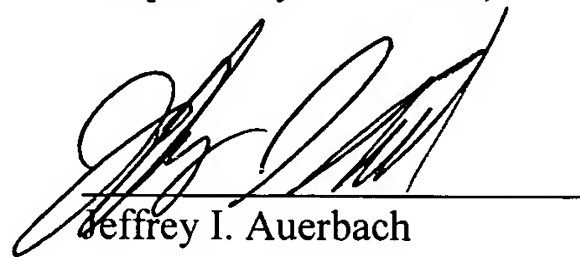
I. Status and Nature of the Amendments

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 15-22 have been previously withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention.

The specification has been amended to include a Sequence Listing in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(e). The amendment is fully supported by the original specification. No new matter has been added.

Having now responded to the Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures dated May 15, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for Examination, and earnestly solicit early notice of favorable action. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any issues regarding this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey I. Auerbach
Reg. No. 32,680
Attorney for Assignee

Date: May 26, 2005
Liniak, Berenato & White, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel: (301) 896-0600 / Fax: (301) 896-0607